

Waterton Glacier GUIDE

2011 - Summer Guide to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Glacier National Park Visitor Guide included inside

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Canada's National Park Service



A hundred years ago, the Canadian government created the first national park service in the world. Now Parks Canada is celebrating its 100th birthday.

As the first commissioner of the National Parks of Canada, J. B. Harkin is known to many as “the Father of Canada’s National Parks.” He developed the idea of conservation in Canada, established standards for preservation, created a centralized agency to administer the parks and helped draft the National Parks Act of 1930. Harkin promoted conservation as well as enjoyment of the parks, encouraging visitors to experience their surroundings.

Commissioner Harkin also played a role, alongside Horace Albright, U.S. Parks Service Director, in the creation of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Both supported joining the two parks as a symbol of permanent peace and friendship. They persevered through a fifteen year-long construction effort to connect the two parks via the Chief Mountain International Highway, which is still in use by travelers today.

Harkin’s descriptions of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park still remain true for today’s visitors. “*Glacier National Park in Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta are peculiarly adapted for the purpose of an international park. Situated side by side and complementary to each other, the*

parks encompass a region of the Rocky Mountain range of surpassing beauty and charm, and together, constitute a playground of exceptional attraction from the tourist standpoint. Without impairing the autonomous rights of either country in respect to administrative matters, the union in spirit of the two parks should prove a powerful force for continued good will and sound understanding between the people of the North American continent who, although separate and distinct, have many aspirations in common.” National Parks of Canada, Report of the Commissioner, J.B. Harkin, 1933.

So, as you explore these fragile landscapes, unwind around a crackling campfire, discover the magic of nature through storytelling and exhibits, inhale

the earthy fragrance of an evergreen forest, paddle along rocky lakeshores, escape to the solitude of the backcountry, cycle a scenic pathway or trail, admire vistas from a mountain lookout, watch birds soar and wildlife roam, think back to the events of the past and come celebrate as we take our first steps into our second century.

Aquatic Invasive Species Threaten Park Waters!

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is dominated by large fjord-like glacial lakes. For many visitors they are a primary destination. Boating, fishing, or just plain hanging out on the shore and skipping rocks consume many a relaxing hour and are the stuff of magical memories. We need your help to keep it that way.

On the surface things look fine, but in the past stocking of non-native fish changed the ecosystems of most park lakes. These

fish out compete native species for food and habitat. We need to prevent additional non-native species of animals or plants from accidentally being introduced, because each small change effects the overall health of park waters.

Now there is a new and serious threat. Imagine a future where going to your favorite rock-skipping beach, you find the shoreline matted with tens of thousands of small mussel shells, with everything cemented together in a sharp, smelly

mess. Imagine once productive fisheries wiped out by these new invaders. It’s not science fiction, impacts are already occurring in waters in the Great Lakes, eastern provinces and states, the prairies and plains, and more recently in the southwest United States.

Since the 1980’s freshwater zebra and quagga mussels have steadily advanced westward, presumably transported on trailered boats. In February of this year a mussel-carrying boat was intercepted at

a marina on Flathead Lake. The boat had come from the southwest. Flathead Lake is just downstream from Glacier.

Protecting the waters of the Peace Park requires immediate action, both by the parks and by every boater. This summer Glacier National Park will step up its boat inspection and permit program, and Waterton Lakes National Park will begin inspecting and permitting boats as well.

Please help protect park lakes!

Permit Regulations Glacier



- A permit is required to launch any motorized or trailered watercraft in Glacier National Park. Hand propelled water craft and passive flotation devices such as float tubes will not require a permit.
- Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, permits will be available 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Park Headquarters, in West Glacier, and between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the St. Mary Visitor Center, Two Medicine Ranger Station, Polebridge Entrance Station, and the Many Glacier Ranger Station. Boaters planning on early morning or late evening trips need to plan accordingly.
- A new permit will be required upon each entry into the park. A boat may launch multiple times provided the boat does not leave the park between launches.
- A full inspection will be required for each permit. Inspections may take upwards of 30 minutes. Boaters should plan on additional time for inspections.
- To qualify for a permit, boats must be clean, drained and thoroughly dry (including bilge areas and livewells) on inspection.
- Boats with internal ballast tanks or other enclosed compartments that exchange water with the environment, that cannot be readily opened and fully inspected are prohibited within Glacier National Park.
- Boats that fail to pass the inspection will be denied a permit. Boaters may re-apply for a permit after the boat is thoroughly cleaned, drained and dried.
- Boats found with certain infestations of aquatic invasive species may be quarantined until they can be fully decontaminated. Depending on the infestation, this may take up to 30 days.
- Boaters on Waterton Lake must comply with permit and inspection requirements of Waterton Lakes National Park

Permit Regulations Waterton Lakes



- A permit is required to launch any motorized or trailered boats in Waterton Lakes National Park. Hand propelled boats like canoes or rowboats and flotation devices such as float tubes do not require a permit.
- To obtain the permit you will be asked a few short questions to ensure that the boat has not been in waters where quagga mussels are present.
- Gate staff are required to stop all vehicles towing boats to ensure that they have a permit, or to provide a permit if they do not have one.
- The permits are free and are available at the park gate, the visitor reception centre, the administration office, and campground kiosks. The permits are valid for the entire season as long as the boat has not been launched in any waters where quagga mussels are thought to be present.
- If the boat has been operated in waters of concern, then a free boat inspection is required prior to issuing a permit to ensure that the boat does not carry any invasive species.
- If the inspection indicates the boat is contaminated, then it will not be permitted to launch and must be decontaminated and re-inspected before a permit will be issued.



Quagga mussel encrusted motor NPS Photo

World's First International Peace Park

In 1932, Waterton Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park were officially joined together as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Peace Park celebrates the peace and goodwill existing along the world's longest undefended border, as well as a spirit of cooperation which is reflected in wildlife and vegetation management, search and rescue programs, and joint interpretive programs, brochures, and exhibits.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park became a World Heritage Site in 1995 - for its scenic values, its significant climate, landforms and ecological processes, and abundant diversity of wildlife and wildflowers.



Cruising down Waterton Lake on the "International"

David Restivo

International Peace Park Hike

Join us in celebrating our 79th year of friendship and cooperative management by participating in an International Peace Park Hike. These special hikes are held every Wednesday and Saturday, beginning June 29, and throughout July and August. Starting at 10 a.m. from the Bertha Lake trailhead in Waterton Lakes National Park, this 13 km (8 mi) hike along Upper Waterton Lake is jointly led by a Glacier Park Ranger and a Waterton Park Interpreter. Learn about Waterton-Glacier's three international designations and take part in a peace & friendship ceremony as you cross the International Boundary on your way to Goat Haunt in Glacier National Park, Montana. Return to Waterton via boat.

A fee is charged for the return boat trip and advance reservations are recommended. The boat will have you back to the dock in Waterton by 6:30 p.m. Each hike is limited to 35 people, so you must pre-register at either the visitor Centre in Waterton (403-859-5133) or at the St. Mary visitor Center (406-732-7750) in Glacier. Reservations are only accepted for the next scheduled hike (open on Saturday for Wednesday hikes; open on Wednesday for Saturday hikes).

Come prepared with a lunch, water, rain gear, jacket, hat. Wear sturdy footwear. The trail is not difficult, but you will be hiking most of the day. Bring money for the boat. Pets are not permitted.



"Hands across the border" ceremony

Jeff Yee



The International

David Restivo

Discover Our Neighbors' Cultural Heritage

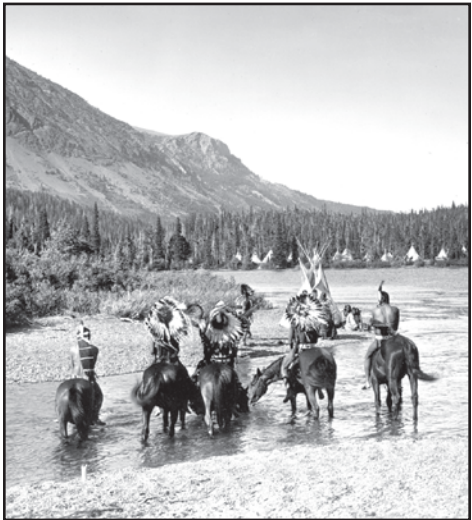
This area holds special appeal for visitors interested in the culture of indigenous peoples. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park lies just west of the Kainai and Piikani Reserves in Canada and borders the Blackfeet Reservation in the United States. People of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, southwest of the park, also have a close association with the park. Take the time to learn about our neighbors.

Nearby in Browning, Montana, the Museum of the Plains Indian features fascinating exhibits and Native American

handcrafts as sales items. The museum is open daily from June through September. Also in Browning, North American Indian Days, the second weekend in July, is a large celebration of Native American culture that includes a parade, traditional dress, and dancing. Visitors are always welcome.

Northeast of Waterton, early plains culture is dramatically displayed at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site. This site is open seven days a week in summer. Phone 403-553-2731 for further information.

The People's Center and Native Ed-Ventures, for the preservation of Kootenai and Salish Culture, are located near Pablo, Montana. The Center provides educational opportunities, full-day and half-day interpretive tours of the Flathead Indian Reservation, a museum collection, and gift shop. Open daily throughout the summer. Call 406-883-5344 or 406-675-0160 for further information.



Blackfeet at Two Medicine

R. E. Marble

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park



Fireweed

David Restivo

Akamina Kishinena Provincial Park is located in the southeast corner of the British Columbia and borders both Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks. High spacious alpine ridges, deep secluded valleys and windswept passes provide habitat and connectivity to the last self-sustaining grizzly bear population in the United States. Exposed alpine ridges, southern latitude and southern exposure provide winter range for goats and big horn sheep.

The trails and passes of the Akamina-Kishinena used today to cross the axis of the continent, were established and used for many years by the early people's and wildlife travelling between the Flathead Basin and the abundant Great Plains.

Akamina Kishinena is a wilderness area, without supplies or equipment of any kind. All arrangements for supplies and transportation must be made beforehand.

Accessibility

The Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers, the International Peace Park Pavilion, and the Cameron Lake Day Use Area are wheel-chair accessible. A listing of additional facilities and services, accessible to visitors with special needs, is available at visitor centers and entrance stations throughout Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Interpretive programs in Glacier National Park accessible by wheelchair are highlighted in the park's ranger-guided activity guide, available throughout Glacier.

Wheelchair accessible trails include the Trail of the Cedars and the Running Eagle Falls Nature Trails in Glacier, and the Linnet Lake, Kootenai Brown, and Townsite trails in Waterton Lakes.

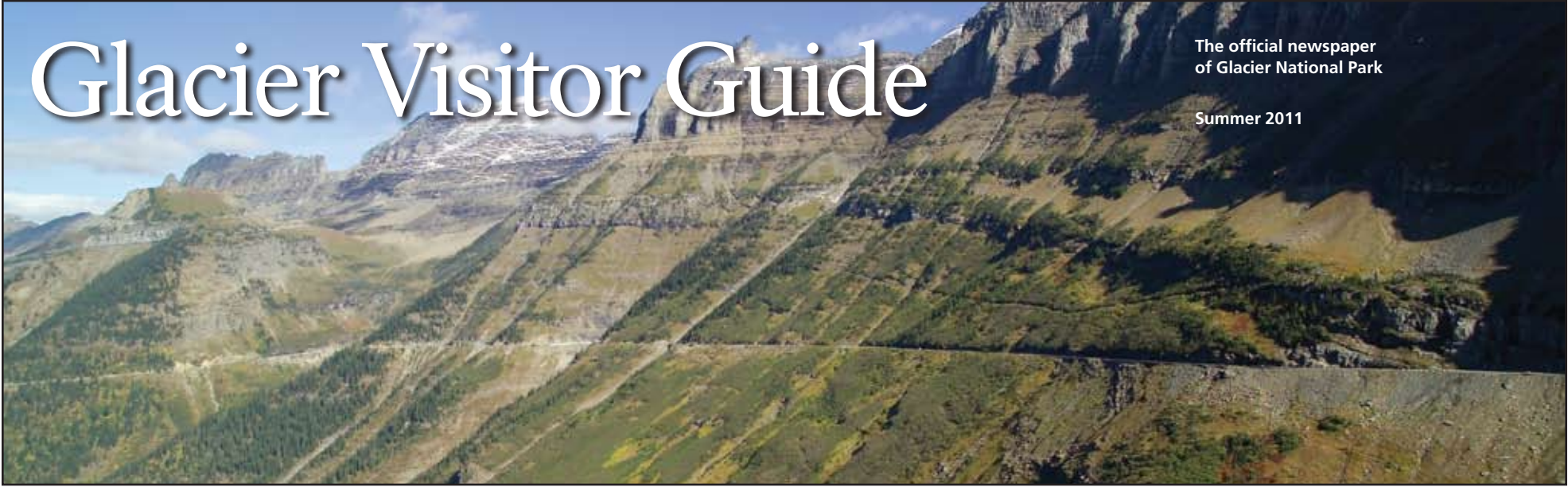
Visitors sensitive to altitude should be aware of the following park elevations:

Lake McDonald	3150 ft.	960m
Logan Pass	6640 ft.	2024m
Many Glacier	4900 ft.	1494m
Polebridge	3600 ft.	1097m
St. Mary Lake	4500 ft.	1372m
Two Medicine	5150 ft.	1570m
Waterton	4200 ft.	1280m



Accessible boardwalk on the Trail of the Cedars

David Restivo



The official newspaper
of Glacier National Park

Summer 2011

The Going-to-the-Sun Road hugs the Garden Wall on the way to Logan Pass - Photo by David Restivo, NPS

Rebuilding the Going-to-the-Sun Road?

There is an ambitious construction season scheduled for 2011 on the Going-to-the-Sun Road. In May, the contractor will again be working on roadway improvements along McDonald Creek between Logan Creek and the West Tunnel. Prior to the road fully opening for vehicle traffic, hiker and bicycle travel will be allowed, except within the actual construction areas above the vehicle closure points at Avalanche and Jackson Glacier Overlook. As soon as plowing and other conditions allow, work crews will begin finishing work on the 2.8 mi. segment between Logan Pass and Siyeh Bend. Work will also resume in the 2.8 mile segment between Big Bend and Logan Pass. These projects were heavily funded with federal stimulus money. After the entire road is

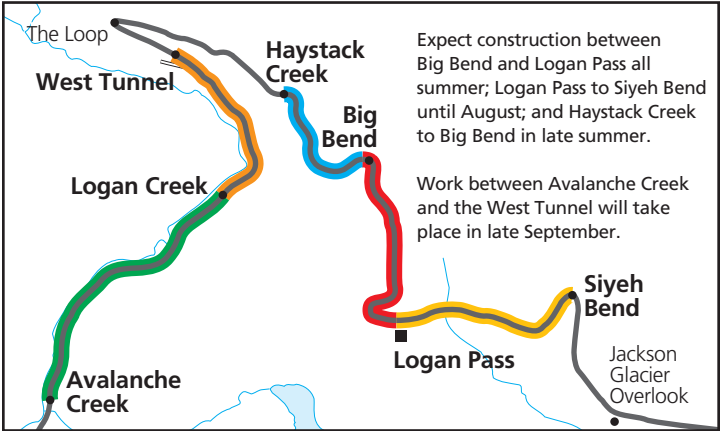
opened for the season, construction, as well as visitor traffic, will be accommodated as crews focus their efforts with construction between Big Bend and Siyeh Bend. Following the completion of the Logan Pass to Siyeh Bend segment, work will begin late summer between Haystack and Big Bend.

CONSTRUCTION DELAYS AND CLOSURES

- The exact date for the full opening of the upper section of the Going-to-the-Sun Road is dependant on weather and plowing progress. It will not open any earlier than June 17 to allow for early season road work to resume.
- Between June 17 and September 18, from 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., travelers should expect delays of up to 20 minutes per project, for a total of no more than a 40 minute delay between Big Bend and Siyeh Bend.
- Monday evening through Friday morning, from The Loop to Logan Pass, a night closure will take effect between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. There will be a 15-20 minute window for passage through the construction at 2 a.m., allowing travel to and from Logan Pass.
- Beginning September 19, access to Logan Pass will only be allowed from the east side while accelerated shoulder season work continues between Big Bend and Logan Pass and on Upper McDonald Creek. At that time access will be restricted between Avalanche Creek and Logan Pass.
- The latest possible date Logan Pass will be accessible from the east will be October 18, 2011 dependent on weather.



Construction work - Photo by Jack Gordon, NPS



Construction zones on the Going-to-the-Sun Road for Summer 2011.

Traffic Delays

It's possible that you may experience a short construction delay along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. We encourage drivers to turn off their engines and set their emergency brakes during these short delays. Take this opportunity to enjoy the scenery, and fresh mountain air, on one of the most magnificent drives in the world. Please remain in your vehicle so that the flow of traffic can resume promptly.

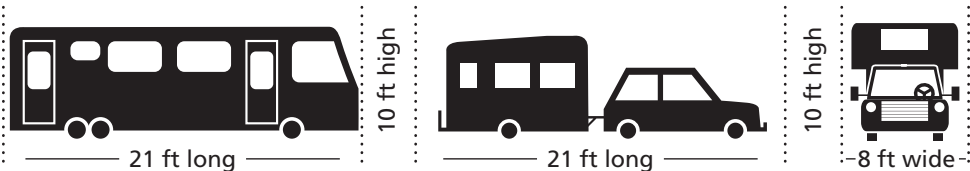
Getting Around on the Going-to-the-Sun Road

DRIVING THE GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD

A drive across the park on the Going-to-the-Sun Road is a highlight of any visit. This 50-mile road combines both history and unparalleled scenery. While portions of the road remain open year-round, the higher sections only open after winter snows are plowed. Ongoing road rehabilitation work may cause delays of no more than 40 minutes total. Please allow additional driving time.

VEHICLE SIZE RESTRICTIONS

Vehicles, and vehicle combinations, longer than 21 feet (including bumpers) or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors), are prohibited between Avalanche Campground and Rising Sun. Vehicles over 10 feet in height may have difficulty driving west from Logan Pass, due to rock overhangs. Stock trucks and trailers may access Packers Roost and Siyeh Bend.



Length and width restrictions are in effect on the Going-to-the-Sun Road. - NPS Graphic

BICYCLING

Bicyclists must comply with all traffic regulations and must ride under control at all times. Keep to the right side of the road, ride in single file, and pull over if there are four or more vehicles behind you. During periods of low visibility or between sunset and sunrise, a white light or reflector visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front and a red light or reflector visible from at least 200 feet to the rear must be exhibited on the operator or bicycle. The more visible you are, the safer you will be! Bicycles are prohibited on all trails. Watch for falling rocks, drainage grates, debris, and ice on the road. You may encounter gravel surfaces in construction areas. Helmets are recommended.



Birdwoman Falls and the McDonald Creek Valley - Photo by Bill Hayden

BICYCLING RESTRICTIONS

From June 15 through Labor Day, the following sections of the Going-to-the-Sun Road are closed to bicycle use between 11:00am and 4:00pm:

- From Apgar turnoff (at the south end of Lake McDonald) to Sprague Creek Campground.
- Eastbound from Logan Creek to Logan Pass.

Allow 45 minutes to ride from Sprague Creek to Logan Creek and three hours from Logan Creek to Logan Pass. Roads are narrow; please ride safely.

Enjoy Glacier Up-Close on a Nature Trail



Running Eagle Falls - Photo by Bill Hayden

Glacier is a hiker’s paradise. Over 700 miles of trails lead visitors through some of the most spectacular and wild country in the Rockies. Multi-day trips make for life-time memories, but so can a shorter hike on one of Glacier’s seven nature trails. The ecosystems traversed by these short walks convey a sense of the magnitude and scope of Glacier’s diversity.

Two trails explore the recent effects of fire on the landscape. The Forest and Fire Nature Trail winds through an area that burned in both 1967 and then again in 2001. The Rocky Point Nature Trail shows the effects of one of the park’s most recent fires from 2003.

Native American culture is the focus of the wheelchair accessible Running Eagle Falls Nature Trail in the Two Medicine Valley. Traditional uses of medicinal plants are explained against the backdrop of the story of Pitamakan (*Running Eagle*), an important Blackfeet woman warrior.

Towering cedar trees along the wheelchair accessible Trail of the Cedars Nature Trail dwarf visitors and create a dark and moist environment filled with shade-loving ferns. The area can be very crowded at mid-day. From the halfway point of the trail, a 2-mile spur leads to Avalanche Lake.

The Hidden Lake Nature Trail leads visitors to an alpine wonderland. Snow lingers well into summer followed by carpets of subalpine flowers. The view of Hidden Lake is unforgettable. Visit late in the day or early in the morning for the best lighting conditions and to avoid the crowds. Watch for mountain goats along the trail.

The Sun Point Nature Trail traverses the windblown slopes above St. Mary Lake and offers spectacular views of the Continental Divide in the distance and the sparkling lake below. Hikers can also link the nature trail to the trails to St. Mary and Virginia Falls, making for a great half-day hike along the shores and forests surrounding St. Mary Lake.

Finally, the Swiftcurrent Nature Trail around Swiftcurrent Lake in the Many Glacier Valley blends Glacier’s geologic past with its human history. The dramatic views of the glacially carved slopes towering above the Many Glacier Hotel are the classic image of Glacier National Park for thousands of former visitors to this amazing part of the Rocky Mountains.



Trail of the Cedars - Photo by David Restivo



Camas - Photo by Bill Hayden

Off the Beaten Path

MANY GLACIER
This area in the northeastern corner of the park is often referred to as the heart of Glacier. Boat rides, horseback riding, and great hiking are all found here. Three excellent all-day hikes are the Iceberg Lake, Cracker Lake, and Grinnell Glacier trails. Roughly 10-12 miles round-trip, these moderately strenuous hikes bring visitors to unmatched subalpine scenery.

For shorter hikes, Grinnell Lake, Red Rock Falls, and the Swiftcurrent Nature Trail are good choices. Guided boat trips and horseback riding are also available.

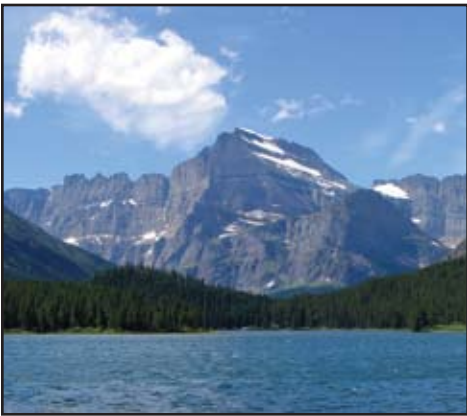
THE NORTH FORK
If you have a high clearance vehicle you might enjoy a trip to the northwest corner of Glacier. Expect rough and dusty roads in this little developed area. The Inside North Fork Road has several narrow sections that make passing oncoming traffic a challenge. Allow all day for the drive to Kintla and Bowman Lake. The Bowman and Kintla Lakes campgrounds are north of the Polebridge Ranger Station and two small primitive campgrounds are south of the ranger station at Logging and Quartz Creeks. The only services in this area are offered outside the park in Polebridge.

TWO MEDICINE
Most visitors miss Two Medicine. Those who find it, are rewarded with some of the best scenic hiking to be found. Trails to Scenic Point, Cobalt Lake, Aster Park, and Old Man Lake are all excellent. Guided boat trips on Two Medicine Lake make No Name Lake, Upper Two Medicine Lake, and Twin Falls easy family trips.

Don’t miss Running Eagle Falls. Site of a wheelchair-accessible nature trail, this area highlights Native American use of plants, and the spiritual importance of this site to the neighboring Blackfeet Tribe.

Pets

Pets are allowed in developed areas, front-country campsites and picnic areas, along roads, and in boats on lakes where motorized watercraft are permitted. Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet, under physical restraint or caged at all times, including while in open-bed pickup trucks. Pets are not to be left tied to an object when unattended. Pet owners must pick up after their pets and dispose of waste in a trash receptacle. Owners must not allow a pet to make noise that is unreasonable.



Mt. Gould - Photo by David Restivo



Big Prairie - Photo by David Restivo



Pray Lake - Photo by David Restivo

Visitor Information

Entrance Fees

Single Vehicle Pass	\$25.00
Valid for 7 days.	
Single Person Entry	\$12.00
By foot, bicycle, or motorcycle for 7 days.	
Glacier National Park Pass	\$35.00
Valid for one year from month of purchase.	

America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass

Special fees are charged for commercial tour vehicles.

Waterton Lakes National Park has separate entrance fees.

Visitor Information Hours

Apgar Visitor Center	
May 1 - June 18	9:00am to 5:00pm
June 19 - Sept. 5	8:00am to 6:00pm
Sept. 6 - Oct. 22	8:00am to 5:00pm

St. Mary Visitor Center	
May 22 - June 18	8:00am to 5:00pm
June 19 - Sept. 5	8:00am to 9:00pm
Sept. 6 - Sept. 30	8:00am to 5:00pm

Many Glacier & Two Medicine Ranger Stations	
May 22 - Sept. 23	7:00am to 5:00pm

Logan Pass Visitor Center	
<i>Opening is weather dependant</i>	
from opening until Sept. 5	9:00am to 7:00pm
Sept. 6 - Sept. 30	9:30am to 4:30pm

Backpacking & Backcountry Permits

Backcountry camping in Glacier requires a backcountry permit at a cost of \$5 per person per night and are issued no more than 24 hours in advance. Permit stations are located at:

Apgar Backcountry Permit Center	
May 1 - Sept. 23	7:00am to 4:30pm
Sept. 24 - Oct. 31	8:00am to 3:30pm
St. Mary Visitor Center	
May 22 - Sept. 23	7:00am to 4:30pm
Many Glacier Ranger Station	
May 28 - Sept. 23	7:00am to 4:30pm
Two Medicine Ranger Station	
May 22 - Sept. 23	7:00am to 4:30pm
Polebridge Entrance Station	
May 27 - Sept. 10	8:00am to 4:00pm

Some stations may be closed for lunch hour

Visitors entering the backcountry at Goat Haunt or Chief Mountain trailheads may obtain their permit at the Waterton Visitor Centre (credit cards only).

Traffic and Parking

During the busiest days of the summer many of the parking areas throughout the park will fill to capacity early in the day. This is especially true for Logan Pass and other locations along the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Expect the Logan Pass parking lot to fill around 10:30am most mornings and remain full until mid-afternoon. The Avalanche Creek parking area and the small parking spots near St. Mary Falls and Sunrift Gorge fill everyday.

All of these locations are serviced by the Going-to-the-Sun Road Shuttle System. Use the transportation information on pages 12 & 13 to plan a trip through the park. Many of the most popular destinations and hiking areas are accessible via the shuttle. With a bit of pre-planning you will be able to visit these area without the hassle of finding a place to park your car.

Hey Junior Rangers!

Earn an “I Went Hiking in Glacier” Sticker in 2011

Thanks to a private donation to our Junior Ranger Program children who complete a hike, in addition to doing all the other required activities in the Glacier Junior Ranger booklet, will receive our new “Let’s Move” sticker along with their Junior Ranger badge.



Glacier National Park is joining with First Lady Michelle Obama’s nationwide *Let’s Move* campaign to encourage children to get active. The benefits of hiking in Glacier go far beyond getting exercise - spectacular scenery, wildlife viewing, beautiful wildflowers, connecting with nature, and quality time with family and friends- are some that immediately come to mind. However, it’s not always that easy to hike with children – safety concerns, fickle weather, physical limitations, not knowing the trail, and time constraints- can all become good excuses for staying inside.

The good news is that Glacier has over 760 miles of trail and there are many family friendly options for children of all abilities. For younger children or beginning hikers, start small with one of our level and paved nature trails. For children and families who want

more of a challenge, see our *Day Hikes in Glacier* newspaper for additional longer and steeper hikes. Make sure you are familiar with our Bear Safety guidelines and check the weather before you go. If you’re still not sure you want to brave it on your own, join one of our Ranger-led hikes suitable for families and children. A schedule can be found in the Ranger-led Activity Guide.

Children who become Glacier Junior Rangers learn about the significant reasons this area was designated a national park. Now along with sharing that knowledge, we hope they will talk about their hiking accomplishment with friends and family and encourage others to get outside and stay active. They’ll be part of a new generation of Let’s Move Outside Junior Rangers.

Park Regulations

- It is your responsibility to know and respect park regulations. Violations are punishable by fines up to \$500.00 and/ or six months in jail. Park regulations are strictly enforced.
- Pets must be on a leash, and are not permitted on trails or anywhere off maintained roadways.
 - Feeding or disturbing any wildlife is prohibited.
 - It is illegal to remove any natural or cultural features including plants, rocks, mushrooms, artifacts, driftwood, or antlers.
 - Open containers of alcohol in a motor vehicle are prohibited.
 - All food and utensils must be properly stored to protect wildlife.
 - Hunting, and recreational use of firearms, is not allowed in Glacier.
 - The park fishing season is from the third Saturday in May through November 30. Obtain Glacier’s current *Fishing Regulations* prior to fishing.
 - Park rangers strictly enforce park speed limits by radar and randomly conduct DUI sobriety checkpoints throughout the park.

What About Firearms?

Federal law allows people (who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws) to legally possess firearms in this park.

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park. Hunting, and recreational use of firearms, is prohibited.

Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are marked with signs at all public entrances.

Visit our Neighbor to the South

Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

If you’re heading down Interstate 90 to Yellowstone National Park after you leave Glacier, we’ve got good news. You only need to travel half the distance before you can answer the perennial question, “Are we there yet?” with a resounding, “Yes!” Halfway between the two parks, the free-way passes within half a mile of Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site. A five minute walk from the Visitor Center will take you back a century and a half, to the

very beginnings of the open range cattle era. Nearly 90 historic buildings, horses, cattle, chickens, ranger led programs, a Chuckwagon, and demonstrations await.

There is no entrance fee, and (critical to any leg-stretch stop) there are accessible rest rooms. The ranch is open daily, year-round. Summer hours: 9:00am to 5:30pm Visit www.nps.gov/grko or phone (406) 846-2070 for information.



Family Fun at Grant Kohrs Ranch - NPS photo

Camping Information

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds, except Fish Creek and St. Mary, are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Utility hookups are not provided.

Group Campsites

Ten group sites at Apgar, two at St. Mary, and one each at Many Glacier and Two Medicine, accommodate 9-24 people. The fee is \$50.00 per night for the first 9 campers. For each additional person (up to the limit of 24 campers), there is a \$5.00 nightly fee During reservation season, five group campsites at Apgar and two at St. Mary may be reserved. Additional reservation fees apply. Reservations may be made through the National Park Service Reservation Service. Contact www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted only in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where grates are provided. Collecting firewood is prohibited except along the Inside North Fork Road from Dutch Creek to Kintla Lake and along the Bowman Lake Road.

Hiker-Biker Campsites

Campsites for bicyclists and hikers are shared sites holding up to eight people. The fee is \$5.00 per person. Hiker-biker sites at Fish Creek and St. Mary are \$8.00 per person.

Campground opening dates listed are the proposed dates as of press time. Due to the unusually heavy snow this winter, and late spring storms, these dates may change.								
Campground	First Night	Last Night	Fee	Sites	Flush Toilets	Dump Station	Hiker-Biker	For Larger RV's and Additional Information
Apgar	May 6	Oct. 9	\$20.00	192	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 25 sites have a maximum parking space of 40'. Primitive camping Oct. 10 to Nov. 30.
Avalanche	June 10	Sept. 4	\$20.00	86	Yes		Yes	The largest 50 sites have a maximum parking space of 26'.
Bowman Lake	May 27	Sept. 11	\$15.00	48				Accessible only by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping Sept. 12 until closed by weather.
Cut Bank	June 10	Sept. 4	\$10.00	14				Accessible only by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping only.
Fish Creek *	June 1	Sept. 4	\$23.00	178	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 18 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. 62 additional sites will accommodate up to 27'.
Kintla Lake	May 27	Sept. 11	\$15.00	13				Accessible only by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping Sept. 12 until closed by weather.
Logging Creek	July 1	Sept. 25	\$10.00	7				Accessible only by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping only, weather permitting.
Many Glacier	June 10	Sept. 18	\$20.00	109	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 13 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. Primitive camping Sept. 19 to Oct. 31 weather permitting.
Quartz Creek	July 1	Nov. 27	\$10.00	7				Accessible only by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping only, weather permitting.
Rising Sun	June 3	Sept. 11	\$20.00	83	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 10 sites have a maximum parking space of 25'.
Sprague Creek	May 13	Sept. 11	\$20.00	25	Yes		Yes	No towed units Some sites have a maximum parking space of 21'.
St. Mary *	May 27	Sept. 18	\$23.00	148	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 25 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. Primitive camping Sept. 19 to Nov. 30, weather permitting.
Two Medicine	June 10	Sept. 18	\$20.00	99	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 13 sites have a maximum parking space of 32'. Primitive camping Sept. 19 to Oct. 31 weather permitting.
Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds in primitive status have no water available. * Fish Creek and St. Mary may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service from June 1 through Sept. 5. Call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov for reservation information.								

Hiking in Bear Country

DON'T SURPRISE BEARS!
Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching, so make noise. Most bells are not enough. Calling out and clapping hands loudly at regular intervals are better ways to make your presence known. Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers.

A bear constantly surprised by quiet hikers may become habituated to close human contact and less likely to avoid people. Don't be tempted to approach or get too close to these bears.

DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS!
You can't predict when and where bears might be encountered along a trail. People often assume they don't have to make noise while hiking on a well-used trail. Some of the most frequently used trails in the park are surrounded by excellent bear habitat. People have been charged and injured by bears fleeing from silent hikers who unwittingly surprised them along the trail. Even if other hikers haven't seen bears along a trail section recently, don't assume that bears aren't there.

Don't assume a bear's hearing is any better than your own. Some trail conditions make it hard for bears to see, hear, or

smell approaching hikers. Be particularly careful by streams, against the wind, or in dense vegetation. A blind corner or a rise in the trail also requires special attention.

DON'T APPROACH BEARS!
Bears spend a lot of time eating, so be extra cautious when passing through obvious feeding areas like berry patches, cow parsnip thickets, or fields of glacier lilies. Take the time to learn what these foods look like.

Keep children close by. Hike in groups and avoid hiking early in the morning, late in the day, or after dark.

Never intentionally get close to a bear. Individual bears have their own personal space requirements, which vary depending on their mood. Each will react differently and its behavior can't be predicted. All bears are dangerous and should be respected equally.

Make noise when hiking! Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers.

If You Carry Bear Spray ...Know How to Use it

This aerosol pepper derivative triggers temporarily incapacitating discomfort in bears. It is a non-toxic and non-lethal means of deterring aggressive bears. Bear spray has proven to be effective for fending off threatening and attacking bears, and for preventing injury to the person and the animal involved. There have also been cases where bear spray not worked as well as expected. Factors influencing effectiveness include distance, wind, rainy weather, temperature extremes, and product formulation and shelf life.

If you carry bear spray, carry it in an easily accessible location. You may need to get at it quickly. Use it only in situations where aggressive bear behavior justifies its use.

Bear spray is intended to be sprayed towards an oncoming bear. It is not intended to act as a repellent. Do not spray gear or your camp with bear spray. Under no circumstances should bear spray create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for standard safety precautions in bear country.

Canadian Customs will allow the importation of bear spray into Canada, if it is in a container that specifically states it for use on animals. Small pocket varieties of bear spray are not permitted.

For Your Safety

Drowning
People are often surprised to find out that drowning is the number one cause of fatalities in Glacier. Please use extreme caution near water. Swift, cold glacial streams and rivers, moss-covered rocks, and slippery logs all present dangers. Children, photographers, boaters, rafters, swimmers, and fishermen have fallen victim to these rapid, frigid streams and deep glacial lakes. Avoid wading in or fording swift streams. Never walk, play, or climb on slippery rocks and logs, especially around waterfalls. When boating, don't stand up or lean over the side, and always wear a life jacket.

Sudden immersion in cold water (below 80° F) may trigger the "mammalian diving reflex." This reflex restricts blood from outlying areas of the body and routes it to vital organs like the heart, lungs, and brain. The colder the water, the younger the victim, and the quicker the rescue, the better the chance for survival. Some cold-water drowning victims have survived with no brain damage after being submerged for over 30 minutes.

Drowning Revival Procedure:

- Retrieve victim from water without endangering yourself.
- Prevent further body heat loss, but do not rewarm.
- Near-drowning victims may look dead. Don't let this stop you from trying to revive them! If there is no pulse, start CPR regardless of the duration of submersion.
- Delayed symptoms may occur within 24 hours. Victims must be evaluated by a physician.

Hypothermia
Hypothermia, the "progressive physical collapse and reduced mental capacity resulting from the chilling of the inner core of the human body," can occur even at temperatures above freezing. Temperatures can drop rapidly. Sudden mountain storms can turn a pleasant hike into a drenching, bitterly cold and life-threatening experience. People in poor physical condition or who are exhausted are particularly at risk.

If You Encounter a Bear

What Do I Do if I Run Into a Bear?
A commonly asked question is "What do I do if I run into a bear?" There is no easy answer. Like people, bears react differently to each situation. The best thing you can do is to make sure you have read all the suggestions for hiking and camping in bear country and follow them. Avoid encounters by being alert and making noise.

Bears may appear tolerant of people and then attack without warning. A bear's body language can help determine its mood. In general, bears show agitation by swaying their heads, huffing, and clacking their teeth. Lowered head and laid-back ears also indicate aggression. Bears may stand on their hind legs or approach to get a better view, but these actions are not necessarily signs of aggression. The bear may not have identified you as a person and is unable to smell or hear you from a distance.

Bear Attacks
The vast majority of bear attacks have occurred because people have surprised a bear. In this type of situation the bear may attack as a defensive maneuver.

In rare cases, bears have attacked at night or after stalking people. These types of attacks are very serious because it may mean the bear is looking at you as prey.

If you are attacked at night or if you feel you have been stalked and attacked as prey, try to escape. If you cannot escape or if the bear follows, use bear spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock. Do whatever it takes to let the bear know you are not easy prey.

If you surprise a bear

- Stop and assess the situation. Is it a black bear or grizzly bear? Does it have cubs? Is it aware of your presence?
- If the bear appears unconcerned or unaware of your presence, take this opportunity to quietly leave the area. Do not run! Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.
- If the bear approaches or charges you, stop. Stand your ground. Speak to it in a calm voice.
- If it's a grizzly and is about to make contact, play dead. Lie on the ground on your stomach and cover your neck with your hands.
- If a bear attacks and you have pepper spray, use it!
- Most attacks end quickly. Do not move until the bear has left the area.
- If it's a black bear fight back. Defensive attacks by black bears are very rare.



Don't help teach bears bad habits. Never leave gear unattended. - Photo by Terry Dossey

Giardia
Giardiasis is caused by a parasite (*Giardia lamblia*) found in lakes and streams. Persistent, severe diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and nausea are the symptoms of this disease. If you experience any symptoms, contact a physician. When hiking, carry water from one of the park's treated water systems. If you plan to camp in the backcountry, follow recommendations received with your permit. Bring water to a boil or use an approved filter.

Mountainous Terrain
Falls and accidents can occur after stepping off trails or roadsides, or by venturing onto very steep slopes. Stay on designated trails and don't go beyond protective fencing or guard rails. Supervise children closely in such areas. At upper elevations, trails should be followed carefully.

Snow and Ice
Snowfields and glaciers present serious hazards. Concealed crevasses on glaciers or hidden cavities below snowfields may collapse when stepped on. Don't slide on snowbanks. People often lose control and slide into rocks or trees. Exercise caution around any snowfield.

What Kind of Bear is That?	
Grizzly Bear	
Color	Range from blond to nearly black, sometimes with silver-tipped guard hairs that give them a “grizzled” appearance.
Physical Features	Grizzly bears often have a dished-in face and a large hump of heavy muscle above the shoulders. Their claws are about 4 inches (10 cm) long.
	
Black Bear	
Color	Color is not a reliable indicator of species. Contrary to their name black bears also come in brown, cinnamon, and blond.
Physical Features	Black bears have a facial profile that is straighter from tip of nose to ears, than the grizzly and lack the dished-in look that grizzlies have. The also lack the shoulder hump of a grizzly and have shorter claws, generally around 1½ inches (4 cm) long.
	
Bears that obtain human food may have to be destroyed. Don't leave any food, packs, or garbage unattended, even for a few minutes.	



Bear proof can and inquisitive bear - NPS Photo

*A fed bear...
is a dead bear!*

*Please help ensure that
all food and garbage are
stored out of reach of
bears at all times.*

Camping & Bears

Odors attract bears. Our campground and developed areas can remain “unattractive” to bears if each visitor manages food and trash properly. Regulations require that all edibles (including pet food), food containers (empty or not) , and cookware (clean or not) be stored in a hard-sided vehicle or food locker when not in use, day or night.

- Keep a clean camp! Improperly stored or unattended food will likely result in confiscation of items and/or issuance of a Violation Notice.
- Inspect campsites for bear sign and for careless campers nearby. Please notify a park ranger of any potential problems that you may notice.
- Place all trash in bear proof containers.
- Pets, especially dogs, must be kept under physical restraint.
- Report all bear sightings to the nearest ranger or warden immediately.

*For your safety, and for the safety of bears, always
stay at least 100 yards (1 football field) away from
any bear. Use a telephoto lens for photography.*

Roadside Bears

It’s exciting to see bears up close, but we must act responsibly to keep them wild and healthy. If you see a bear along the road, please do not stop. Stopping and watching roadside bears will likely start a “bear jam” as other motorists follow your lead. “Bear jams” are hazardous to both people and bears as visibility is reduced and bears may feel threatened by the congestion. Roadside bears quickly become habituated to vehicles and people, increasing their

chances of being hit by motor vehicles. Habituated bears may learn that it is acceptable to frequent campgrounds or picnic areas, where they may gain access to human food. When a bear obtains human food, a very dangerous situation is created that may lead to human injury and the bear’s death. Please resist the temptation to stop and get close to roadside bears – put bears first at Glacier National Park.



Brown colored black bear - Photo by Bill Hayden



Grizzly family - Photo by Terry Dossey

For Your Safety

Wildlife Hazards

Glacier provides a wonderful opportunity to view animals in their natural setting. Along with this opportunity comes a special obligation for park visitors. With just a little planning and forethought, visitors can help ensure the survival of a threatened or endangered species.

Always enjoy wildlife from the safety of your car or from a safe distance. Feeding, harassing, or molesting wildlife is strictly prohibited and subject to fine.

Bears, mountain lions, goats, deer, or any other species of wildlife can present a real and painful threat, especially females with young.

Mountain Lions

A glimpse of one of these magnificent cats would be a vacation highlight, but you need to take precautions to protect you and your children from an accidental encounter. Don’t hike alone. Make noise to avoid surprising a lion and keep children close to you at all times. If you do encounter a lion, do not run. Talk calmly, stand tall, and back away. **Unlike with bears, if attack seems imminent, act aggressively. Do not crouch and do not turn away.** Lions may be scared away by being struck with rocks or sticks, or by being kicked or hit.

Lions are primarily nocturnal, but they have attacked in broad daylight. They rarely prey on humans, but such behavior occasionally does occur. Children and small adults are particularly vulnerable. Report all mountain lion encounters immediately!

Ticks

Ticks are most active in spring and early summer. Several serious diseases, like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, can be transmitted. Completely remove attached ticks and disinfect the site. If rashes or lesions form around the bite, or if unexplained symptoms occur, consult a physician.

Rodents and Hantavirus

Deer mice are frequent carriers of Hantavirus. The most likely source of infection is from rodent urine and droppings inhaled as aerosols or dust. Initial symptoms are almost identical to the onset of flu. If you have potentially been exposed and exhibit flu-like symptoms, you should seek medical care immediately.

Avoid rodent infested areas. Camp away from possible rodent burrows or shelters (garbage dumps and woodpiles), and keep food in rodent-proof containers. To prevent the spread of dust in the air, spray the affected areas with a water and bleach solution (1½ cups bleach to one gallon of water).

Medical Services

If you are injured or suddenly become ill while visiting the parks, please contact a ranger for information and assistance.

Montana Hospitals & Clinics

- Northern Rockies Medical Center
802-2nd St. E., Cut Bank, MT
406-873-2251
- Kalispell Regional Medical Center
310 Sunny View Lane, Kalispell, MT
406-752-5111
- North Valley Hospital
1600 Hospital Way
Whitefish, MT
406-863-3500
- Teton Medical Center
915 4 NW, Choteau, MT
406-466-5763

A Sharing Place

When you think of the word, sharing, what comes to mind? Wikipedia describes sharing as, “...the process of dividing and distributing,” and “giving something as an outright gift.” In terms of the natural environment, Wikipedia goes on to state, “Apart from obvious instances, which we can observe in human activity, we can also find many examples of this happening naturally in nature.”





From an ecological standpoint, the resources in Glacier are shared. Flowers divide and distribute seeds that propagate new flowers, nourishing grazing animals like deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. Coyotes, badgers, and hawks share hunting grounds in search of prey, where the two distinct communities of mountains and prairies meet. Scavengers find bounty left by predators. More recently humans have shared this land as well.

Before the establishment of a national park, this area was home to the Blackfeet, Salish, Pend d’Oreille, and Kootenai Tribes. The land gave them the gifts of plants and animals for subsistence purposes, and open areas for refuge, prayer, and fasting. When George Bird Grinnell discovered this “untouched” corner of northwest Montana he shared his adventures, and the beauty of the mountains and prairies, with readers in the eastern United States through articles in *Field and Stream Magazine*. After the Park’s establishment, famous western artist Charlie Russell, often standing at the grand fireplace in Lake McDonald Lodge, shared his art and stories about Glacier National Park to the delight of intrigued first-time visitors. Today, sharing Glacier National Park continues to be a daily occurrence. New technologies like smartphones and social media make it easier to share photos, videos, and day-to-day information. People who have never heard of Glacier National Park before, or those who desire to stay connected to Glacier, can simply log on to their Facebook page and see what the Park is sharing with them.

For thousands of years, this has been a sharing place. As you visit the park, notice the different examples of sharing, and discover how you can share the magnificence of Glacier with others.

Let us share Glacier with you. Follow and “like” us today.

[www.twitter.com/glaciernps](#)
[www.facebook.com/GlacierNationalPark](#)
[www.flickr.com/photos/glaciernps](#)
[www.youtube.com/glaciernps](#)
[www.nps.gov/glac/parknews/blogs.htm](#)



Wildflower Carpets

Glacier is one of the world’s most significant natural areas, with spectacular topography and diverse wildlife. A remarkable variety of plants brings the scenery to life and there are many places where you can enjoy exceptional displays of wildflowers.

The variety of plant communities here includes grasslands, aspen and conifer forests, wetlands, and alpine meadows. The park is affected by two major climate systems and this results in significant climate and plant community differences from east to west.

The western half is affected by weather from the Pacific coast so it is generally warmer and moister, with fewer extremes in temperature. Continental air masses affect the east side of the park, so these areas see more extreme temperatures, and tend to be cooler and drier. When Pacific air masses meet continental air masses, the result is usually lots of rain or snow, and sometimes, spectacular storms.

Climate in the park also changes with elevation. Higher elevations experience more extremes, with lower temperatures,

a short growing season, and drying winds. More moderate conditions predominate in the lower elevations, like Lake McDonald.

These differences in climate create a meeting and mingling of many different plant communities, resulting in over 1,000 species of plants.

Plants take advantage of every moment of the short growing season. Flowers carpet the prairie early in the season to take advantage of spring rains prior to drier summer conditions. Mountain plants, adapted to a short growing season, grow quickly and reproduce in a brief span of time. Flowers are often found pushing up through retreating snowbanks. As you move from spring to fall and from grasslands to alpine meadows, you will find a constant and changing landscape of blooms and berries.

Native plants in Glacier are treasured by the public, and preserved for future generations. They inspire us to increase our awareness of how we can better care for the places we visit, and those we live in.



Glacier Lilies - Photo by David Restivo

The Challenge of Preserving “Quiet”

Webster’s dictionary defines quiet as “making little or no sound” or “free of noise” - but a visit to Glacier National Park is anything but quiet. Like this incredible landscape, the park’s soundscape is alive with a diversity of sounds – some subtle and some dramatic, some ancient and some new to the scene.

Melting snow and ice transforms itself from a quiet trickle to a thundering stream into a tranquil lake. Gentle breezes and powerful storms sing their way amongst the trees, valleys, and mountain ridges. Dynamic events like avalanches and wildland fires complement the peaceful sounds of dripping rain and quaking aspen leaves. The drumming of a grouse’s wings, the warning “peep” of a pika, the fall bugle of elk, and the throaty croak of a raven add their parts to the symphony of natural sounds heard here.

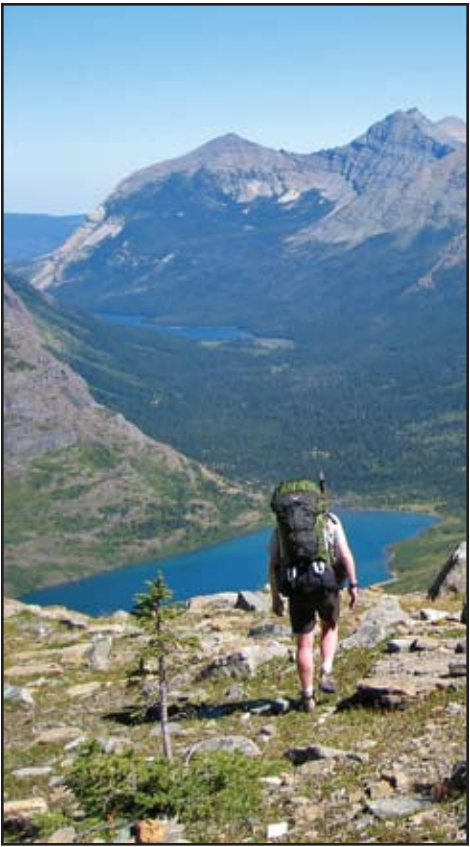
Humans and their activities add to Glacier’s soundscape as well. The gentle murmur of a historic boat touring one of the park’s lakes, the gasps of adults and excited squeals of children at the sighting of a mountain goat, or a ranger’s voice during a hike or evening program are all expected sounds in Glacier. But new, and perhaps unwelcome, sounds are being added to the soundscape

all the time. Cell phones, overflights, motorboats, generators, loud motorcycles and cars, and even Park Service activities like road construction, trail maintenance, and daily operations can potentially impact the natural soundscapes that millions desire and come from around the world to experience. Many see these types of human sounds as intrusions on the natural quiet they expect to experience during a park visit.

It is a goal of the National Park Service to preserve natural soundscapes just as we strive to preserve wildlife, ecosystem processes, scenery, and historic resources. The public wants this too - nearly 75% of visitors surveyed stated that providing opportunities to experience “natural peace and the sounds of nature” is a primary reason for preserving national parks.

But we will not succeed without your help. It is up to all visitors, and the National Park Service as well, to aid in the preservation of the natural quiet we expect to find in places like Glacier National Park. For many people, coming to places like Glacier is like visiting a library or museum, or even a temple or sacred place. Perhaps, preserving the soundscape that is Glacier is as simple as behaving like we would when we enter someone else’s home. A good start is

through simple awareness of how our human activities impact other visitors and the soundscape around us, we can insure that present and future visitors have Glacier experiences that as Webster’s defines it are “. . .restful and marked by tranquility.”



Hiker at Ahern Pass - Photo by David Restivo



Take Action!

Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks is an on-line program that empowers park visitors to reduce their carbon emissions and help to protect America’s national parks from the impacts of climate change. Using a simple household emissions calculator, you can determine your carbon footprint and choose actions to reduce it.

Examples of possible actions include driving less, recycling, and using energy efficient appliances. Do Your Part! tracks the changes individuals are making and reports the results in real time, allowing you to see how your efforts are making

a difference. When taken together, many small actions make a big difference.

By implementing simple measures at home and on the road, national park visitors can:

- Reduce emissions that contribute to climate change
- Improve air quality
- Decrease traffic congestion
- Reduce energy and transportation costs
- Support their favorite national park

Learn more at: [www.doyourpartparks.org](#)



Reduce, Reuse and RECYCLE!

There are many ways to reduce the amount of waste we accumulate both at home and on vacation. While in Glacier, consider washing plastic plates and using them again. Take a plastic or aluminum water bottle with you to fill up over and over instead of buying bottles of water. AND...please recycle.

Plastics #1 & 2 and aluminum cans are collected throughout the park at front country campgrounds, the Apgar Transit Center (bins located near the bus stop), and other developed areas. Ask campground hosts or other park staff for specific recycling locations. Thanks for doing your part for Climate Friendly Parks!



Alpine Poppy - NPS Photo

Keeping the Wild in Wildlife



Bohemian Waxwing - Photo by David Restivo

Prairie, Rocky Mountain, and west coast plants all meet in Waterton-Glacier. Add in the effects of natural processes like fire, floods, and avalanches and you end up with a varied landscape which provides homes for many different species of animals.

This is also a meeting place for visitors from around the world! As a visitor here, take the time to learn about the wildlife and respect their need for undisturbed space. Although some animals spend part of the year close to roads and developed areas where they are easy to observe, enjoy viewing them at a distance. While some animals appear to tolerate people, approaching too close can disturb them from feeding areas or travel routes.

Keep at least 30 yards away from large animals and a minimum of 100 yards from bears. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to improve your view. Keep the animal's line of travel or escape route clear and move away if wildlife approaches you.



Columbian ground squirrel - NPS photo



Whitetail fawn - Photo by David Restivo

“Animal jams” occur when many people stop along the road to view wildlife. In their excitement, some folks forget they need to be aware not only of safety concerns related to wildlife, but also traffic hazards. Slow down and pull over carefully. Remain in your vehicle, safe from wildlife and traffic, and move on in a short time so others can watch. If you are too close to an animal, on a hill, curve, or in heavy traffic, drive by slowly and avoid stopping.

Because park animals are still wild, they remain unpredictable, and may strike out with antlers, horns, teeth, hooves, or claws without warning. Animals may be hit by cars if they hang around parking lots and roads, and habituated animals often have to be relocated or killed.

How can you help? Enjoy wildlife from a distance and keep all food and garbage properly stored. We all share responsibility to keep the park healthy and wild.

Never feed park wildlife. If animals lose their fear of people, they become habituated, leading to begging and aggressive behavior.



Pika - NPS photo



Downy woodpecker - Photo by David Restivo



Moose - Photo by Bill Hayden

Beating the Odds

How to Increase Your Chances of Observing Wildlife

Look at dusk and dawn! Many animals are more active at those times. Remember however, hiking alone or after dark is never recommended in bear country.

Learn about animal behavior and look in a variety of habitats! One of the park's most remarkable features is the diversity of habitats it offers. You will see different animals in forests than on the prairie or in marshy areas.

Walk a trail! Spend some time away from the roads. Glacier offers fine short walks that can reward wildlife watchers.

Look in unusual places! Have you ever gone fish viewing? Have you spent some time watching the antics of chipmunks? Have you looked up for gliding eagles or rollicking ravens?

A new program in the Many Glacier valley will help provide wildlife information while keeping visitors and animals at a safe distance from one another. The Watchable Wildlife Program will include designated viewing areas along the Many Glacier road and park staff with spotting scopes to help you find wildlife along the mountainsides of the valley. Look for the Watchable Wildlife signs.

Glacier Diving into New Duck Research Study

Catching a glimpse of a bold-colored, agile duck diving among the rapids along Upper McDonald Creek is a rare treat for visitors to Glacier National Park. The harlequin duck is one of the top bird species that visitors seek out because of their striking beauty and rarity.

Male harlequin ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) are slate blue, with bold white, black, and chestnut markings. Harlequin ducks take their name from Old French, referring to a colorfully dressed comedic character or clown that displayed histrionics (tricks).

Glacier is excited to announce the initiation of a 2½- year graduate research project on the harlequin duck beginning in 2011, thanks to funding from Federal Highway Administration and a generous grant from the NPS Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit.

inland to breed and raise their young along fast-moving freshwater streams. They are especially adapted to feeding on stream bottoms in raging water, a place inaccessible to other wildlife species.

Harlequins are a species of concern in Montana, where they are at high risk of local extinction due to their very limited numbers, limited habitat, overhunting (outside the state), sensitivity to disturbance, and habitat loss or alteration. The impacts of climate change and consequent changes in spring runoff are also of serious concern for this species. Harlequins occur on only a limited number of streams in Montana—more than 25% of all harlequin duck chicks produced in the state are raised along Upper McDonald Creek, making it an ideal place to study harlequin ducks.

The project will examine a range of possible factors influencing harlequin duck survival and reproduction. Researchers will use radio-telemetry and banding to learn about where harlequins nest, why nesting succeeds or fails, and what kinds of factors affect chick survival. This information will be used to assist park managers during the planning and implementation of projects that may affect harlequin ducks in Glacier National Park and Montana. Harlequin ducks occupy a unique niche among waterfowl. As small sea ducks, they spend most of their lives feeding in the turbulent surf along the North American coast. Each April, these ducks migrate



Harlequin Ducks - Photo courtesy of John Ashley Fine Art